

Family Matters

NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD



SEPTEMBER 2003

Dear Families,

We say over and over again how important the families are to the North Carolina National Guard and that every "Family Matters." Each of you plays a vital role in the deployment because you are the ones who keep the home fires brightly burning, you are the ones who maintain such a supportive attitude, and you are the ones who are first in line to proudly wave the American flag. Thank you for continuing to rally around our Flag, our Country, and especially our Guardsmen!

Also, I sincerely thank you for your involvement in Family Readiness. It warms my heart to hear about how well you are taking care of each other and each soldier – from helping a family recover from a tragedy to procuring items to mail to the soldiers. You are making life a bit more comfortable and bearable. These selfless acts of kindness are priceless gifts that help to ease another person's burden and lighten the load.

Be proud of what you are accomplishing while your loved ones are deployed. You are loyal, compassionate, brave Patriots who are making a difference. Considering the circumstances, you are handling everything quite well. I stand in awe of your strength, courage, and dedication. Please stay on this positive course that you have set in motion.

There are many hard issues and difficult questions to process. The number one question on everyone's mind is when are the soldiers coming home? The deployment orders have called the soldiers to Active Duty for a period of one year with a possible extension of up to two years. The Army does not have a definitive answer for when currently mobilized soldiers will return. The decision is based on the requirements of the mission, determined by the Combatant Commander in the theater of operations. It is important while our soldiers are deployed to support them in every way possible, and I sincerely thank you for making this happen. If our soldiers are reassured that their families are coping back home, supported by the Guard family, then they can fully focus on their mission. This is extremely important for their safety as well as their fellow soldiers because they operate as a team.

Lieutenant General Dan McNeill said once that he has "good days" and "really good days." I wish for you "really good days." Some days may be more demanding than others, but I am confident that you will make it through. You are all so special. General Ingram joins me in sincerely thanking you for your invaluable support.

God Bless You,
Lil Ingram



SILENT RANKS

I wear no uniforms, no blues or army greens.
but I am in the National Guard in the ranks rarely seen
I have no rank upon my shoulders.
Salutes I do not give.

But the military world is the place where I live.
I'm not in the chain of command, orders I do not get.
But my spouse is the one who does - this I cannot forget.
I'm not the one who fires the weapon, who puts my life on the line.
But my job is just as tough. I'm the one that's left behind.
My spouse is a patriot, a brave and prideful person.
And the call to serve our county not all can understand.
Behind the lines I see the things needed to keep this country free.
My spouse makes the sacrifice, but so do our kids and me.

I love the special person I married.
I stand proud among the silent ranks known as the Guard Spouse.

--Author Unknown--

Family Assistance Centers:

Charlotte:

Patti Carr
704-359-5745 ext. 5745
1454th Trans Co

Clyde:

Pat Fox & Lana Greer
828-627-9027 ext. 8031
161st Med, 210th & 211th MPs

Greenville:

Rebekah Murray
252-752-0855
514th MPs, 691st Maint Co

Morganton:

Nancy Davis
828-437-0746 ext. 8112
105th Eng

Morrisville:

Cynthia Griffin & Rena Wethington
919-664-7617/7655
1-130th Avn Bn, 111th Fin, 123rd Pers, 139th ROC

TOLL-FREE: (800) 621-4136 PLUS 4-DIGIT EXT.